FREEDOM

SEPTEMBER 28 1963 Vol 24 No 31

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY - 4d.

'The dead easily change their political beliefs.'

STANISLAW LEC

SELLERS WANTED FOR FREEDOM & ANARCHY, HYDE PARK, SUNDAYS AND HAMPSTEAD ON SATURDAYS

What is CND for?

THE reasons given by five leading members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for refusing to accept nomination for re-election to the National Council—pressure of other work—do not seem to constitute a very strong case for saying, as was to be expected from the national Press, that there is a crisis threatening the existence of CND. As *Peace News*, rightly in our opinion, pointed out in its front page Editorial "Is CND Finished?" (Sept. 20), if there is a crisis in CND it is not as some members think a problem either of organisation or leadership. What, it seems to us, is the attraction of CND is that its local groups enjoy the kind of autonomy which no political party would tolerate, and are as different in composition and activities as are the interests and politics of the people who animate them. It is true, as *Peace News* sadly reflects, that the advances made by the peace movement "have not been very impressive", and that "the momentum of the great protests against nuclear war has declined". Some of us would argue that it was naive to believe, in the first place, that either the peace movement or CND could in fact hope to implement a unilateral, or multilateral disarmament policy. *Peace News* on the other hand argues that CND "tends to put too much emphasis on the negative side of its work—saying how evil and destructive war is today" while saying very little about "what they are for". And obviously *P.N.* would not be satisfied by the obvious answer: "Why, for peace, of course!" for the problem that needs a positive answer, in our contemporary's view is "How to deal with conflict, aggression or invasion if it does occur". And if a clear answer to this question is to be found

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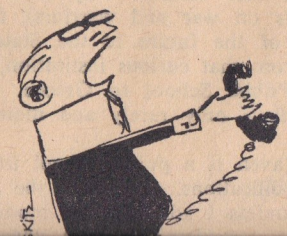

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On Wednesday, 11th September, the police arrested some fifty anarchists in many different parts of France. Apart from the arrests search warrants were issued for the homes of some of them and for the offices of the FIJL and the French Anarchist Federation. These comrades were all interrogated and, later the same day the majority of them were released. However, in addition to those arrested in August seventeen of them were kept in custody and charges preferred against them. They are being charged with "association with malefactors", and have been moved to Paris to stand trial. Those comrades awaiting trial in Paris are:—

Imbernon (26), general secretary of the regional and local federations of the FIJL and assistant-secretary of the CNT; José Pascual (48), who is 100% disabled with T.B.; Martin Armandarez (24); Bartolome Flores (25); Vincent Marti Verdu (37); Floreal Navarro; and Cipriano Mera Sanz (66).

From Toulouse; Antonio Molina Abril (26); member of the National Committee of the FIJL; Enrique Ferrer Otin (27); Victor Ferrer Otin (29); Antonio Ros Monero (26); Enrique Guinard Fabreguat (24); and José Sos Yague.

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The "association with malefactors" with which they are being charged is a legal device that was used extensively at the end of the last century to curb anarchist activity in France at a time when some of them had resorted to individual acts of "propaganda by deed".

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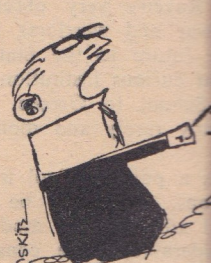

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From Paris: Robert Arino Sahun (28); Auguste Sanchez (27), secretary-treasurer of the Paris section of the FIJL; Nardo Imbernon (26), general secretary of the regional and local federations of the FIJL and assistant-secretary of the CNT; José Pascual (48), who is 100% disabled with T.B.; Martin Armandarez (24); Bartolome Flores (25); Vincent Marti Verdu (37); Floreal Navarro; and Cipriano Mera Sanz (66).

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Ostensibly these investigations and the coming trials are an attempt to connect members of the FIJL (in exile) and other Spanish anarchists in France with the underground Consejo Iberico de Liberacion. In point of fact it is an attempt to smash all the activities of our Spanish comrades in France.

These repressions against our comrades are part of a deal between de Gaulle and Franco. Franco restricts the activities of certain OAS men in Spain and de Gaulle, for his part, breaks up the activities of Spanish anarchist refugees in France. It isn't coincidence that, at the time when the French authorities were rounding up our comrades, the Franco police 'discovered' a 'clandestine' OAS printing press in Spain which was being used to print 'subversive Propaganda' and forged French Treasury notes. Following the 'discovery' of this printing press Jean Bichon, Lajos Marton, and other OAS-CNR men were arrested in France (*Daily Telegraph*, 21st September).

A further result of the collusion between de Gaulle and Franco is the presence, in France, of an eight-man team of Spanish secret-police headed by the Chief of Police of Barcelona himself—Polo. Not only is this team working against our comrades but fascist thugs, operating from various Spanish Consulates in France, have started beating-up comrades where and when they find them alone.

It is blatantly obvious that our comrades are being used as pawns by the French Government in the dirty political game they are playing with Franco and already considerable protests are being mounted in France against this. There has been widespreal condemnation of the de Gaulle-Franco collusion and the resulting violation of the 'right of political asylum'.

Apart from protests from our comrades of the CNT, FIJL, the French Anarchist Federation, Jeunes Libertaires, and the Alliance ouvriére Anarchiste (the latter have appealed to André Malraux, Minister of State for Cultural Affairs, who himself fought against Franco), there have been protests from various sections of the F.O. (socialist trade unions), the S.F.I.O. (Socialist Party), the League of the Rights of Man, and the C.D.R. (Departmental Council of the Resistance) of the Haute-Garonne. In addition to these protests some thirty intellectuals and artists, among them Simone de Beauvoir, Christine Rochefort, Clara Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Louis Lecoin and Georges Brassens, have signed a statement of protest which concludes, "It is going to be necessary to fight, and we will fight, in order that Cervantes and Lorca can continue to receive the rights of citizenship in the land of Voltaire and Camus."

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These imprisoned comrades urgently need our assistance. A fund has been set up by the French Anarchist Federation and the Jeunes Libertaires to help pay for defence lawyers and to assist the families of the imprisoned men. Those comrades in Britain wishing to contribute to this fund can do so by sending money, as quickly as possible to: René Bianco, c/o Freedom Bookshop, 17a, Maxwell Road, Fulham, London, S.W.6.

READERS & DISTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

Production difficulties have made it necessary to postpone publication of ANARCHY—32 until next week. this week, and it means that there will be no FREEDOM next week, when we will be publishing the October issue of ANARCHY. The next issue of FREEDOM will appear on October 12.

FREEDOM PRESS.

ANARCHY 32

OUT NEXT WEEK

is on Crime

ANARCHY is Published by Freedom Press at 1/6 on the last Saturday of every month.

Rally to Hyde Park Saturday !

We cannot stress enough the urgency of this appeal.

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We are meeting at 3 p.m. at Speakers' Corner, Marble Arch, and after a short meeting, we will march to the French Embassy in Knightsbridge.

In view of the silence, in this country, surrounding the whole affair we hope that as many comrades as possible will support this demonstration.

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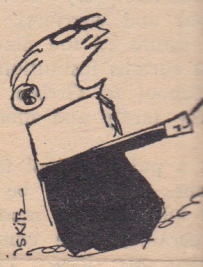

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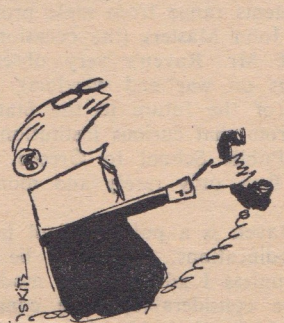

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INDUSTRIAL NOTES

Strike for 42 hr Week

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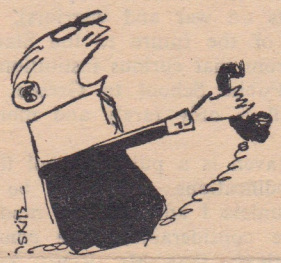

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Negotiations for this claim, which have been in progress since May, broke down last month.

At present the drivers earn 5/3d. per hour for unlimited hours, there being no basic week. The delivery firms have offered a reduced hourly rate of 4/9d. for a 43-hour week, spread over six days, with overtime rates and a guaranteed minimum pay packet of 10 guineas. This offer was rejected and now, without the official backing of the union, the Transport and General Workers, they have taken action themselves to secure what are, after all, very moderate demands.

After three days, this action gained support of some of the men who drive the large car transporter lorries. These 24 men are employed by the largest firm affected by the strike and they and their mates already work the basic 42-hour week.

If this strike action is to be effective, it must hit B.M.C. quickly. Delivery firms have made alternative transport arrangements. Cars are being delivered by rail, and other labour is being used to shift the vehicles. A spokesman for the strikers has said, "Non-union labour is being used by the distributors to move new cars during the strike and it is the official policy of the unions at Morris Motors not to work with non-union labur."

While this type of thing continues, the pile-up of cars at parking lots will be prevented and the strikers action will be ineffective. B.M.C. and the delivery companies will continue production and disposal of vehicles while these men are left on their own to face eventual defeat.

Two delegates from the strikers have been to Birmingham to see Jack Jones, the assistant executive secretary of the T. & G.W.U. to try to get him to recommend recognition by the union, but so far this has not been forthcoming. Mr. Cousins, who has just announced a record membership of 1,385, 445 for the T. & G.W.U., and his executive seem unconcerned that a section of their membership does not even have an agreement for a basic 42-hour wek.

With the union's large membership and power, the securing of the claims of these strikers should be a comparatively easy task. However, after long, fruitless union negotiations with the employers, the car delivery men have got fed up with these attempts and have taken action for themselves. But if they are to be successful, more support is needed. Morris Motors have said that they are "not worried" by the strike. If the demands of these men are to be realised, then Morris Motors have got to be worried about this stoppage.

The strike has to be extended to other transport drivers. The continuance of production can help, as long as these cars are not moved from parking lots, If cars are moved, then support should be sought from production workers. Only by this type of sympathetic action can these strikers, who are isolated at the moment, hope to win their demands. Their action must not remain isolated but he extended and broadened.

18 MINERS STAGE A STAY-DOWN STRIKE

Eighteen coal-miners at the Saville Colliery at Methly in Yorkshire, staged a 54-hour stay-down strike over a fall in earnings. After the management had agreed to talks over their grievances, they came up from the mine, and fellow

Continued on page 2

Remembering Low

THE post-war generation can be excused for asking why all the fuss over the death last week of David Low the political cartoonist, for really, apart from a few flashes in the pan he had nothing to say in his cartoons these past 20 years. Indeed as the years passed his point of view came always closer to those of his great creation of the Thirties, Colonel Blimp. And in 1962 he was knighted. "A climax" to his career declares the *Guardian*. History will call it an anti-climax just as it will probably remember Low as one of the great political cartoonists of our time for his work published in the *Evening Standard* in the Thirties. The obituarists in general recognise this, and it is interesting because it coincides with his almost revolutionary Left-wing period (the *Guardian* editorial refers to him as "a Left -wing firebrand" at the time which it also describes "as his most brilliant period) when he was as critical of the democracy as he was of the totalitarians (and there were a lot of them at the time besides Russia). Probably the only politician he had a sneaking sympathy for was Roosevelt.

But apart from hitting the politicians mercilessly (and many expressed their disapproval at diplomatic level), *Low* again and again attacked the capitalist system and the values that stem from it. A good example was the cartoon published in 1934 with the caption "Gosh! Lost in an Impenetrable Forest" showing three City gent types, labelled "Politician", "Economist", "Business", all trying to climb a dead tree ("The old dead less-wages-more-profits Idea") standing in a wide open space, with a rising sun on the horizon and with a group of unemployed workers looking on, which has this legend:

"The Trades Union Congress' proposal to raise wages and shorten hours at a time of such complexity is impossible idealism . . . irresponsible extremism . . . chaos . . . Moscow . . . blah . . . blah blah . . . Average Comment by the Stand-still-and-Rot-Party."

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CADS & BOUNDERS

"BOYS WILL BE BOYS" by Simon Raven (Anthony Blond) 21s.

"SIMON RAVEN is a cad, and anyone who publishes his work is an unmitigated bounder". Thus spake the colonel, condemning two ANARCHY contributors, not to mention ANARCHY, with eloquent and time-honoured disdain.

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That is not to rate it too high—much of it offended me and I find Raven's sophisticated *ennui* very tiring at times. Like most works of this kind it suffers from uneveness, and some of it *is tedious*....

But Raven's civilised contempt for the carelessly accepted dogmas is refreshing and when, for example, he brings the modern army under the microscope in "Perish by the Sword" there will be few who do not feel he has something original to say. This is probably the best piece in the collection—I commend it unhesitatingly to all those who condemn military life, without having experienced even a Cadet Corps. This is not because it will refute their opinion but it *will* give it some basis!

The essays are printed in more or less chronological sequence, linked by a worthwhile and interesting running commentary by the author, explaining the 'whys' and 'wherefores' of each piece. The contents range from male prostitution to John Masters (the occasion for some of Mr. Raven's very observant comments on war and warriors), from a GPO of the future to the State of Israel, from that curious institution, the British Public School to Greece. The interest flags only rarely and momentarily.

Mr. Raven is a public school liberal with modifications. This may be misleading unless I add that the modifications are considerable, more considerable, I think, than Mr. Raven knows. He is (sin of sins!) no anarchist but I recommend this book to readers of FREEDOM because what he has to say he says extremely well and, invariably, with some original points to make.

CHARLES RADCLIFFE.

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FROM AUSTRALIA

The Big Sell-Out

MELBOURNE, Sept. 16.

THE growing threat from "successful" foreign investment has become so obvious here that even academics have been aroused. The immediate cause of the latter's concern has been the "take over"—no less—of the Australian Encyclopedia.

This latest take-over, in fact, presents a dramatic illustration of how new foreign investment is operating in this country alongside the "traditional"—mainly British interests.

The Australian Encyclopaedia first appeared in 1958. The result of almost 10 years' painstaking toil [Editor, Dr. Alex H. Chisholm], its publication was immediately hailed as a significant community event. The new 10 volume work was printed locally, achieved an international reputation and was available through normal retail channels for £50. Since that time the Australian Encyclopaedia has been acquired by an overseas firm—Messrs. Grolier of New York, U.S.A.—who have introduced their own methods of Salesmanship.

This unique work is now being touted from door to door by teams of high pressure salesmen. They use a sales technique which is said to have been outlawed even in its country of origin. (A similar technique—Hire Purchase and promise of a "free after sales advisory service—is also used by two other overseas firms, and Messrs Grolier's rivals in the field, Encyclopaedia Britannica and Colliers). The cost of the Australian(?) Encyclopaedia is now £144. An investigation has shewn that £54 of the increased purchase price now goes in commission to the team of salesmen, supervisors, team managers, State sales managers up to and including the firm's Managing Director. All profits, of course, go overseas.

This case is typical. Over the last few months, in fact, we have become increasingly aware of the truth: *Australia* is Kennedy's new Frontier. Entire sections of the economy are now almost completely under U.S. control.

These include: The petroleum industry, pharmaceuticals, the motor industry (General Motors, the makers of "Australia's own car", sent home profits of £15½ million last year), food processing and television (U.S. companies "dump" their unwanted programmes on eager Australian managements. A programme which originally lost £60,000 can be had for £1,000. Hence the 70 per cent foreign content of their programmes).

The leading politicians are now busily engaged denying their complicity in the events described (although each of them has had his share of the "come and exploit us"overseas tours at public expense).

The two party leaders, of course, consider themselves above such mundane matters. Prime Minister "Ming" Menzies (otherwise known as Pig Iron Bob) returned from *his* recent overseas jaunts only in time to hand over a several thousand acre site to the U.S. Navy for use as a nuclear-armed submarine directing radio base.

The Labour Party supported him. Our position would have been untenable, in view of an early election, if we had opposed the base explained the opposition leader Arthur Calwell.

The views of the two party leaders, as on most "controversial" issues, are in fact almost identical. Calwell says that he will ask to be told when the button is to be pressed. (If and when he wins the next election). Menzies couldn't care less. His attitude was seen clearly during last year's Cuban crisis. To Kennedy, he said then, in effect: "If your starting a war, Jack, anytime, any place, don't bother to call us, we'll call you."

What sell-out could be more complete than that?

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In the event *Low* was right, in 1939 the "Well-meaning ineffectuals" collapsed and joined up with *Low's* "sheep". But *Low* too, in spite of not being a "sheep", joined the ranks of the war propagandists with his brush. And in recording this, those of us who were his warm admirers of the Thirties, do so because we would like the post-war generation who rightly considered *Low* as a reactionary cartoonist, whose humour was unfunny anl even Blimpish, not to ignore him or forget that in the Thirties he wrote such things as:

I am realistic, and I do not feel called upon to cramp my ratiocinative style by assuming as an absolute condition precedent that the only way to mend the present is to put a patch on the past". . .

Far be it from me to represent Blimp as a man of blood, though he is too ready, I think, to regard violence as a glorious alternative to argument, and to exhibit wars as the triumphs, rather than the failures of man. In the presence of Blimp it seems a vain hope that civilization will ever be able to dispense with force, for one is reminded that human beings are unequally sane, and that the best-ordered community imaginable could be imperilled by the presence of one free demented Blimp. When the Colonel puts the view that the sanctity of human life is much exaggerated, I incline to assent that it might be excusable to kill him. . . .

The Colonel, greatly admires, as we do, an ideal British working-man whose most notable characteristics are Sturdy Independence coupled with Unquestioning Obedience; but in the world of reality the truth must be told that to Blimp the British working-man in bulk is an almost intolerable nuisance, with his everlasting grumbles about undernourishment and his inconvenient yearnings for selfish improvement. Any display of Sturdy Independence in that quarter and Blimp calls for the police. . . .

Socialism is no system of economics to the sentimental Blimp. It is a plot. But then all social and political movements are plots to Blimp. Restlessness among the lower orders is always due to a plot hatched by a number of bearded persons ten thousand miles away. . . .

* * *

Low like so many other radicals of the Thirties was a casualty of the "War against Fascism" propaganda. "Until constructive pacifism can build a solid alternative—he wrote in May 1941—in the last resort only force can stop those who would employ force to deprive men of good-will of the power to strive for a better and warless world". Hitler lost and Stalin loomed up as the new enemy to "men of goodwill". And all the signs are that Mao will be his successor. And so the men of goodwill have all their time cut out fighting those who would deprive them of "our power to strive for a better world" and forget that what we are in fact supposed to be striving for is "a better world"! This surely is the pattern of politics these past 20 years with *Low* and a host of other radicals of the Thirties "lost in an Impenetrable Forest".

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INDUSTRIAL NOTES

Continued from page 1

workers who had struck the day before in sympathy, welcomed them.

The miners took this action because of the inadequate fallback rate. This rate is paid when the output of coal falls due to the difficulty in working a seam, *e.g.* the seam becomes very narrow and the coal has to be removed by hand. Because of this inadequate rate, half of the shift earnings during a week were down by over £1. The men have been working under difficult conditions without getting an adequate wage.

One of the wives of the strikers said, "This trouble has been going on for months, my husband's earnings have dropped considerably." Jim Gee, one of the men who stayed down, blamed the leaders of the union who had not negotiated a satisfactory fall-back rate in 1961, when in Yorkshire, 80,000 miners took strike action.

Mr. Gee said, "It was cold down there, but we kept ourselves happy with a bit of backchat and playing dominoes and cards." Reports that they had sung

Some might gain a slight benefit from it, but on the whole it appears that this scheme will divide the men one against another.

During the negotiations, which have now been postponed, the unions have requested a 40-hour week, a third week's holiday and a sick-pay scheme, but the Board has refused to discuss these requests.

The staff scheme has been attacked recently in the *Power Worker,* the industry's unofficial paper, as a threat to pay-packets. "These proposals would carve us up in a thousand pieces, skilled and unskilled, skilled and more skilled, new and old, operators and maintenance men, generating and distribution.

For what the Board expect to get out of it they are giving damn little in return. . . .

Demand NO secret negotiations. No settlement without reference to members."

No doubt the Board will try out any arrangement such as staff status, which although it may give certain fringe benefits, conceals a freezing of wages at the

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The miners took this action because of the inadequate fallback rate. This rate is paid when the output of coal falls due to the difficulty in working a seam, *e.g.* the seam becomes very narrow and the coal has to be removed by hand. Because of this inadequate rate, half of the shift earnings during a week were down by over £1. The men have been working under difficult conditions without getting an adequate wage.

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Mr. Gee said, "It was cold down there, but we kept ourselves happy with a bit of backchat and playing dominoes and cards." Reports that they had sung "Land of Hope and Glory" while in the mine, were laughed at by the strikers.

Only by the action of these miners has the management been made to discuss the grievance. All efforts of union officials, that is if they made any efforts, were of no avail.

POWER CUTS. WHO IS TO BLAME?

This week, Sir Christopher Hinton, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, has shown in his annual report, that last winter the board were only able to produce 91.3% of the total needs of the public. However, last winter according to the Board and the press, especially the *Daily Mirror*, it was Charles Doyle and the power workers, who were on a work-to-rule, who were responsible for the "black-outs" and power cuts. The *Mirror* referred to Charles Doyle as the "most hated man in Britain" and if this winter is as bad as the last, and if, as the Chairman of the Board forecasts, power cuts will have to be made, will the *Daily Mirror* attack Christopher Hinton in the same way?

It appears that the capacity to meet the heavy demands made during severe winters will not be attained until 1967-1968. The Board's plans to meet increased demands have been inadequate and even with a profit of £42.5m., prices in some areas may go up.

At the moment, there are talks taking place in the power industry about the introduction of staff status for workers, which will set out a scale of fixed salaries per annum. It seems from this, that certain sections of the industry's workers will stand to lose quite a bit. Some might gain a slight benefit from it, but on the whole it appears that this scheme will divide the men one against another.

During the negotiations, which have now been postponed, the unions have requested a 40-hour week, a third week's holiday and a sick-pay scheme, but the Board has refused to discuss these requests.

The staff scheme has been attacked recently in the *Power Worker*, the industry's unofficial paper, as a threat to pay-packets. "These proposals would carve us up in a thousand pieces, skilled and unskilled, skilled and more skilled, new and old, operators and maintenance men, generating and distribution.

For what the Board expect to get out of it they are giving damn little in return. . . .

Demand NO secret negotiations. No settlement without reference to members."

No doubt the Board will try out any arrangement such as staff status, which although it may give certain fringe benefits, conceals a freezing of wages at the expense of the workers in the industry.

As was proved last winter, the union leaders will not fight to improve the low wages in the industry. It is up to the rank and file.

P.T.

FINANCE:

A Bad Week!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AT SEPTEMBER 21 1963

Week 38

EXPENSES: 38 weeks at £70			£2,660
INCOME:			
Sales & Sub. Renewals	£	£	
Weeks 1—37 ...	1,459		
Week 38	31		
		1,490	
New Subscriptions			
Weeks 1—37 (306)	337		
Week 38 (8)	9		
		346	
			1,836
DEFICIT			£824

DEFICIT FUND

Salisbury: J.W. 8/-; E. Rutherford: A.S.* 7/-; Margate: T.L. 10/-; Wolverhampton: J.L.* 3/-; Wolverhampton: J.K.W.* 2/-; Hyderabad: G.O. £1; Cheltenham: L.G.W.* 10/-; Surrey: F.B.* 5/-; Trinidad: V.R. 18/-.

TOTAL	4 3 0
Previously acknowledged	758 17 7
1963 TOTAL TO DATE	£763 0 7

*denotes regular contributors.

FREEDOM

September 28 1963 Vol 24 No 31

What is CND For?

Continued from page 1

resistance must be seen as one prong in the struggle to undermine the authority, and power of Authority and the State.

But the Law—the judiciary, the police and the prisons—the monetary system, respect for authority, acceptance of the *status quo*, and the rules of the parliamentary circus are, in our opinion, far greater threats to peace than the presence of armed forces and nuclear weapons. They *are* the *raison d'etre* for the armed forces and the threat of war!

★

THE weakness of the *Peace News* approach is its reluctance to face the fact that war is a consequence not a cause. "For a long time *Peace News* has", we are told

advocated non-violent resistance as a form of power which can be used as an alternative to military power, as a means of resisting and undermining the organised violence of invasion and of totalitarian regimes. . . .

We believe that if the peace movement does not develop a non-violent defence policy and a new concept of power then it will become politically impotent. For at the present time, while military means of defence are increasingly immoral, destructive and self-defeating, the basic need for defence is perhaps greater than ever.

For those, like ourselves, who cannot follow the subtleties of meaning of that last sentence we quote the concluding paragraph of the editorial:

This fact underlines the obligation on *Peace News* to present more concisely what is meant by non-violent defence. And it indicates that it may now be necessary to form a new organisation to promote this policy.

Help! Yet another organisation! Randolph Bourne declared that "war is the health of the State"* It could well be said that "new organisations are the health of the peace movement". *Peace News* is already darkly hinting at a new organisation to promote a "policy" which so far consists of four words "non-violent defence policy".

What does *Peace News* really think? What does it mean when it talks of the peace movement developing "a non-violent defence policy"? As we understand it, it means a policy which could be adopted *by governments* as being more effective than one based on nuclear or conventional weapons. This is in fact the Stephen King-Hall line. Is that what they mean? If they mean that defence must pass from the hands of government (and the military) to the people why don't they say so unequivocally. If the peace movement is in need of a spring cleaning in its thinking, let *Peace News* which is insisting that it is, give a lead by making quite clear where *it* stands. It accuses the CND leaders of being anxious *not* to have frank discussion on vital topics, yet the front page editorial with its sensational headline is full of riddles worthy of the "New Left or the Labour Party politicians" it attacks.

*pace comrade Morton in the September issue of ANARCHY, we would suggest that true as it may have been in Randolph Bourne's time, the contemporary slogan should surely be that "the cold-war is the health of the capitalist economy".

The Prerequisite of Peace

IN Monday's *Guardian* we read that

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One of the first professions will be teaching, where there will be a demand for educational reforms, including the abolition of corporal punishment and of compulsory religious teaching.

This sounds interesting and the kind of activities long advocated in ANARCHY and FREEDOM without much apparent direct success. The connection with Nuclear Disarmament may seem remote but it seems to us that in the long term it is only by attacking and seeking to break down the values of existing society and, of course, offering what we consider to be better values, to take their place, that we can hope to change society and, incidentally, remove any threats of war. The Committee's reference to a "radical non-violent society" is a tautology, and also a somewhat self-conscious labouring of a thesis of non-violence which can only provoke unnecessary discussion amongst those who in fact are in agreement. A *tautology* because the kind of *radical* society envisaged, which is also envisaged by the anarchists, could not exist if it had to be imposed by violence; and *self-conscious* because those of us who do not label ourselves "non-violent" anarchists neither do we wish to qualify our anarchism with a "violent" adjective. The society we want to live in cannot, by definition be anything but non-violent. We say that to make that society possible we must break down authoritarian—that is, existing—society and in doing so we will alomst certainly be resisted by a show of violence and intimidation which we in our turn must resist by the most effective means at our disposal. If we can defend ourselves by non-violent means, obviously we should avoid violence. But when the will of the people is resisted by the State then it seems to us equally obvious that if the people only by violence can remove that obstacle then they should not hesitate to use violence. We believe that the State must be destroyed as the prerequisite of Peace.

MICHAEL SCOTT AND DOCTRINAIRE PACIFISM

The Rev. Michael Scott, one of the leaders of the Committee of 100, commented in Glasgow yesterday on the "state of disarray" of the peace movement in Britain.

Mr. Scott said: "There has been a tendency for pacifism and pacifists to take a lead in all movements opposed to war. I am not sure that doctrinaire pacifism has not resulted in a certain amount of confusion in Africa and the erstwhile colonial countries."

It had appeared to some people in these countries that peace was more important than anything else.

"I am one of those who has been caught up in various controversies which have involved the use of force for the purpose of liberating people from oppression, and this is one of the questions we have to think out much more clearly than we have up to now. We cannot say that all the uses of force are wrong."

Observer.

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They will walk by an outdoor exhibition of paintings and openly and without shame ridicule the painter and his work, for the artist long ago accepted the status of the people's clown and he is accepted as such. But all this is with one honourable exception and that exception is the pavement artist.

Here is the only penniless and masterless craftsman who neither begs, fawns or cringes for his daily bread yet he has won the respect of the passing crowd, for he is the teacher who, from their earliest childhood, has given the townspeople their only glimpse of an act of creative culture for which they are not expected to applaud, pay or remove their hats to.

The pavement artist is respected by the crowd and what is more important, he respects himself and all over the Town this small open guild of men, old and young, spend their hours upon their knees with their backs to their audiences working at their pastel scenes. Indifferent to their watchers they mould with coloured chalks the repeating images, knowing, even as they work, that a passing shower and the gathering dark will destroy the work of hours, but for

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OUT OF THIS WORLD

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MR. CHARLES MORGAN Junior's opinion about the bomb which killed four negro children at a church service in Birmingham, Alabama was "A mad, remorseful, worried community", asks, "Who did it? Who threw that bomb? Was it a negro or a white? The answer should be 'We all did it?' Every last one of us is condemned for that crime and the bombing before it, and the ones last month, last year, a decade ago. We all 'did' it . . . The 'who' is every little individual who talks about the 'niggers' and spreads the seeds of hate to his neighbour and his son. The 'who' is every governor who ever shouted for lawlessness and became a law violator . . . We are 10 years of lawless preachments, 10 years of criticism of the courts, of our fellow men, a decade of telling school children the opposite of what the civic books say. We are a mass of intolerance and bigotry and shouted indictments before the young. We are cursed by the failure of each of us to accept responsibility by our defence of an already dead institution." In Birmingham (Ala.), after the explosion all available Negro ambulances were sent to the church. About 100 whites beat up two negro ministers at Anniston when they tried to enter the whites-only public library. . . .

THE U.S. Southern Railway gave way to a court ruling in favour of the railway unions that firemen must be carried on diesel locomotives. The railways thereupon appointed about one hundred ageing negroes who never worked on railways before. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen's constitution (according to *Time*) 'until four weeks ago prohibited Negroes from becoming members.. . . .

DENNIS BRUTUS, president of the South African Non-Racial Committee for Olympics was shot and wounded, according to the police, when trying to escape in Johannesburg. He is reported to have a Federal Rhodesian passport, to have been born in Rhodesia, and to have been handed over from Portuguese East Africa to South Africa. He had fled to Swaziland from South Africa whilst on bail for attending a gathering in defiance of his banning order. He once wrote to a friend, "I cannot involve others in my own protest; I have no right to. If I have to suffer like Shakespeare's Cinna, for my bad verses, I should not mind. This barbarism of a doomed group . . . this brutality inflicted on the human spirit, must be fought—even at great peril—if we truly value the uncrushable spirit of Man.". . . .

ON TUESDAY the *Express* leader ran "What splendid news it is that the Queen is going to have another baby, her fourth child. This is typical of a growing and healthy preference in the land for larger families. The Queen is just like countless other British women today who value home life and the laughter of children. And the people are delighted it should be so." On Tuesday, Mrs. Patricia Kearney, aged 19, who is also going to have a baby, was released from Holloway Prison after having purged her contempt of a court order by having served 28 days' imprisonment. Mr. Henry Brooke announced the establishment of a standing advisory committee on juvenile delinquency to carry out a continuous study of crime among people under seventeen. . . .

MRS. BARBARA CASTLE told Young Socialists at a rally at Skegness that she had been prepared to retain conscription when the conservatives had been prepared (in 1957) to "precipitate nuclear war" in order to abolish conscription. If the apparent choice of 1957 presented itself. "I would retain conscription and I hope we have the guts to do such an unpopular thing from time to time." According to the *Guardian* "it was apparent that a Labour Government might need to bring back a form of conscriptiontion. Mr. Bill Simpson of the Foundry Workers' Union commented that a Labour government intended to have full employment and therefore the supply of regular soldiers might fall short. In these circumstances some form of conscription might be unavoidable. . . .

MR. MICHAEL FOOT, Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Miss Jacquetta Hawkes, Mrs. Judith Hart, Dr. Antoinette Pirie, and Mr. Arthur Goss have all declined to stand for re-election to C.N.D. executive or office. Some disagree with C.N.D.'s tacit endorsement of various forms of civil disobedience. Others, notably Mr. Foot and Mr. Greenwood, are not standing because of the pressure of other work.

A CHURCH in Walham Green carried the notice "If You Belong to the Human Race You Will be Welcome at Harvest Festical Service". At the bottom of the poster appears the words, "Visitors invited".

JON QUIXOTE.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

FOR the many hundreds of thousands all of them the very act of creation is faults of so many of his fellow artists in that he is not prepared to experiment with his subject matter and he is content to rely on the same landscapes and the same interpretations of them. He offers a perennial summer, for his trees

a wanted man at the back of the court where he was giving evidence. He told the gaoler to tell the man to stay. After 45 minutes the officer left the witness-box and found the 'wanted' man was a Sudanese judge visiting under the auspices of the British Council to see "the British processes of law in operation". . . .

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The pavement artist is respected by the crowd and what is more important, he respects himself and all over the Town this small open guild of men, old and young, spend their hours upon their knees with their backs to their audiences working at their pastel scenes. Indifferent to their watchers they mould with coloured chalks the repeating images, knowing, even as they work, that a passing shower and the gathering dark will destroy the work of hours, but for all of them the very act of creation is all important, for when the pavement artist has finished he knows he is no longer important but simply a guardian of his own work.

David Blackburn is such a man and this slim, dark-eyed and unshaven young man has for years decorated the pavements of the Town. Each day he will place his cardboard box of coloured chalks upon the stones outside the National Portrait Gallery to mark his pitch. From a milk bottle he pours out a mixture of size and pumice powder and with an old boot brush washes down his section of the pavement, aesthetically to hold his colours and realistically to stop any ancient dodderer sliding on his arse near his pitch, then with a chalked string he marks out his golden mean to frame the day's work. Blackburn has worked at the game too long to know that the well publicized pitches are not the most profitable ones and he is content to work in St. Martin's Place in front of the National Gallery to the glory hunters and the apprentices. For while the pavements at the Gallery's main entrance may offer a fine view of Trafalgar Square it also caters to the closed groups of marshalled tourists and the crocodiles of giggling, gormless schoolgirls all of whom are notoriously diffident in parting with money for a living painter. David Blackburn's income is small and his costs are heavy, for a stick of pastel ranges in price from a shilling to three shillings, and a long day's work can be heavy on his powdered chalks and in the main it is pennies that fall into his empty hat.

But David Blackburn's faults are the faults of so many of his fellow artists in that he is not prepared to experiment with his subject matter and he is content to rely on the same landscapes and the same interpretations of them. He offers a perennial summer, for his trees never know an autumn and the same hot green pours down from his blue mountains to wash over his trees and grasses.

It can be argued that working in an outdoor light and attempting to catch the eye of the strolling Londoner necessitates a sacrifice of subtlety but it is unfortunate, for Blackburn appears to lack the desire to experiment and this is a major fault of those who work upon the stones. Having arrived at a certain subject and a certain style they are prepared to repeat it until it becomes a recognisable set of clichés. David Blackburn's work cannot be dismissed as primitive, for within his chosen sphere he is a competent craftsman but unfortunately he is content to pander to his audience by giving them work in the old academic traditions.

Blackburn likes to claim that he has produced more worthwhile work on canvass that others have been happy to buy and it is in this desire to divorce the two aspects of his craft that his failure lies, for he owes a duty to himself to expand his talents across the dry concrete. At the end of each working day Blackburn will sprinkle the coloured stones with a handful of sand and rub out the work of a single day and the experience of a working lifetime, for none must slip upon that deserted pavement if David Blackburn wishes to return. And each day he returns and sinks upon his knees with the dusty tools of his trade to win back some small measure of respect for the snivelling hack geniuses voluntary in thrall to the Bond Street dealers who will give them anything but self respect.

ARTHUR MOYSE.

Splendid Diatribe

DEAR COMRADES,

A fortnight ago a letter was published in FREEDOM from Mike Walsh of Bristol bewailing, among other things, the 'in-group' nature of much of the controversy in the paper. While sympathising with our readers in the 'outlying dim-witted provinces', they must remember that the anarchist movement consists of persons, not zombies, and persons with personalities at that. When taking part in controversy (and I can't agree that it has no place in FREEDOM or is of no interest to the general readership) it is very difficult indeed to eliminate from one's arguments what one knows personally of the comrade you are arguing with. For instance we now know that Mike can criticise FREEDOM for 'not taking kindly to criticism' while at the same time showing by his angry writing that he doesn't take kindly to criticism either!

But if we accept that Mike is a personality, and that 'G' is a personality, and that even the 'anonymous' editors of FREEDOM are also personalities, our enjoyment of controversy can be heightened. We need not fear the cult of the personality, since influence-wise they will cancel each other out. Some of the personalities in the movement are such that they even cancel themselves out.

Which brings us to the Notting Hill Group and its thoughtful contribution of last week. I feel sure that Digger Walsh and the Bristol comrades must have been highly delighted to read this calm and reasoned statement, from which any hint of in-group innuendo, character assassination and personality-mongering had been so carefully expunged. This, it seems to me, is just the sort of healthy and comradely contribution which contrasts well with FREEDOM's inability to take criticism kindly, and will go a long way to bring back the eminent Tolstoyan nut and the score of other disillusioned readers. It was, I submit, in the very best tradition of left-wing political discussion, such as that which characterised the finest critical writings of the Bolsheviks at the very zenith of their inter-group controversies.

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ALEX COMFORT

LETTERS

The kindly presentation of information of which the majority were unaware is something for which we must all be most grateful. For instance, although I am celebrating my twentieth year in the movement this year, it had escaped my notice all this time that our editor had chosen to ignore the Spanish Revolution. I had of course been misled, simple soul that I am, by the innumerable editorials he had written since the far off days of 1936 when he founded an anarchist paper (which alas, was in fact *the* anarchist paper, since there was no other) called 'Spain and the World' which was devoted to the presentation of the Spanish anarchist cause in this country. This paper flourished under his editorship for the three years of the Civil War, after which it was taken over as the organ of the movement which had grown up around and because of it, its name was changed and it promptly collapsed.

Thus, through no fault of his own, released from the chores of voluntary editorship, our anonymous editor (together, of course, with several others), devoted all his spare time to the welfare of some hundreds of anarchists and syndicalists refugees from Spain who were fed, colthed and housed until jobs were found for them and they could look after themselves in a cold, strange country.

By the time I entered the movement in 1943, our editor had been involved (again with others) for four years in the production of 'War Commentary', *the* anarchist paper that had been founded in 1939 to present the anarchist case against war and to hammer away at the lessons the British working class had to learn from the Spaniards. Two years later I was in the dock of the Old Bailey side by side with our anonymous editor and two other editors and in next to no time we were behind bars together.

I am now kicking myself that our clear-sighted comrades of the Notting Hill Group were not around at that time to tell me how misled I was in believing that the man doing his cocoa next to me all those months really knew anything about anarchism or Spain or capitalism or fascism. (As a matter of fact—and this is a little bit of special in-group information for the ears of Mike Walsh alone—the people for whom the Notting Hill Group are the mouthpiece *were* around then, saying just that. They were wrong then and they are wrong now.)

Well, came the end of the war and the Labour Government and the bomb and our release and the long years of apathy and unnlightenment while we waited for the Notting Hill Group to be born and tell us what was what. During this tiem our editor, every July 19th (a date he omits to forget only because it his own birthday) wrote one of his well-known interminable editorials about Spain and the Spanish Revolution, cunningly hiding from us all the fact that he was sedulously ignoring the plight of the Spanish workers under Franco. He went so far as to pull the wool over our eyes by actually writing a book called "Lessons of the Spanish Revolution" which to this day is the only work of its kind in English which presents the facts about anarchist achievements (and —to his undying shame—mistakes) during 1936-39. It did not, of course, get the publicity that Hugh Thomas's rag-bag of error got more recently, and so perhaps the Notting Hill Group haven't heard of it. It might even have been sold out before the Notting Hill Group existed. Or, of course, it may be that, coming fresh on to the anarchist scene, they can see things with a clearer eye and think that truth is better served by being ignored.

This must, I think be the explanation for the group's contribution of last week. I can't believe that any of it can have been motivated by malice. Their blue-eyed innocence about the circumstances of the publication of their leaflet was matched only by their truly Christian humility. I was completely convinced that had it not appeared they wouldn't have said a word to anyone, nor published anywhere else any reference to our anonymous editor's well-known connection with tourism. They would not have suggested for one moment, I am sure, that our editor could disagree with them on anything other than the pure merits of the case, for haven't they shown themselves completely fair and logical in their own arguments? Nothing could be fairer, for example, than comparing Polaris missiles with lazing on the beaches and drinking cheap wine.

Nothing could be more straightforward and honest and unequivocal than the frank, bold statement that they are not impressed, at least not favourably so, by *anything* that the Franco regime does, even though in the next column they hope that pressure on the economy, in the form of a tourist boycott, could induce the Spanish State to make some alterations in its vile regime. They seem to be going to an awful lot of trouble to try and make the regime do something with which they won't be impressed anyway! Such 'liberalisation' as has taken place under the pressure of Common Market negotiations, is shown to be an illusion—but *real* liberalisation will follow pressure on the tourist trade. This subtle and careful reasoning does our movement much credit.

There was so much that was splendid in the Notting Hill Group's highly personal and prudent rejoinder that I should like to draw attention to almost every paragraph, but out of respect for those provincials who are not bloody interested, and in order to be brief, I must forgo that pleasure. I beg to be allowed space however to point out one piece of appalling ig
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Reading Report

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Reading Report

To the Editors of FREEDOM,

We had our first meeting Friday evening (20th). Evidently there is a *Solidarity* group in Reading and most of the people who turned up (about 12 altogether) were members of this, and there was some discussion as to whether an anarchist group was needed. My own reasons for wanting one was to make contact with people of similar ideas as my own and to hear their views on how we could co-operate and put them into practice, for I feel that there must be something we can do other than just protest against and criticize the present set-up. At the meeting a lot of time was spent discussing the anarchist utopia when it comes. How everything will fit into place (cars and fridge, etc. industry). A lot of people present seemed to think we should have all our ideas—question and answer style—in a nice little parcel with a red and black ribbon round which we could present to others and say, "This is anarchism, how it'll work" etc. (I sometimes think these are anarchists only so long as there's no chance of their ideas being put into practice). It seems to me there is a tendency to spend a lot of time talking about how things will be when the great day comes and so escape the problem of what we can do now. If only the energy and time spent worrying and discussing how we can get the majority (are we all tarred by the politicians' brush?) on our side, was spent taking some kind of action now we might get a little nearer that day they are all worrying about. James Ross myself and one or two others tried to bring the discussion back to the here and now, and somebody then spoke about the factories for peace project and it was decided that we should find out more about these.

As to my own ideas on what can be done now. In common with most anarchists. I feel a great sympathy for the misfits of our society but especially (in my own case) for the total rejection (rejected, amounts to the same thing), *i.e.* tramps, beats, etc., which is why I mentioned in one of my notes to you Phillipe O'Connors book *Vagrancy*. At the end of the book he suggests that there should be some sort of loose community where tramps, beats and others could live and where no pressures would be put on the person to get him back on the wheel. But where he could freely develop his individuality. A sort of community that caters for the individual's wants and not one that tries to fit everybody into the same mould. In fact an anarchist community. As O'Connor says, there is a great deal of sharing and giving amongst tramps and other misfits. Perhaps one day it'll be recognized and something done about it. If there is anybody who feels that we can do something along these lines I would like to hear from them.

Reading, Sept. 9. R. ADAIR.

For Mutual Aid

October 6th at Mahatma Gandhi Hall, 41, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. at 7 p.m. Play "Triangle in Red", by Giovanni Baldelli with Hovenden Theatre Club actors. Tickets 5/- in aid of families of Delgados and Granados.

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It is with regard to the nature of Fascism, one of the basic ideas of which —in fact *the* basic idea—is that of the Corporate State. Ideally, Fascism is opposed to unbridled free enterprise, and in some of its forms—*i.e.* the Peronista regime in Argentina—has gained considerable support from the organised workers precisely because it has curbed some of the mort disruptive practises of the exploiting class. In order to stabilise the State, to make a corporate body of the nation, the political leaders —usually smarter than the economic bosses—have been prepared to pay some lip service to workers' rights, the better to keep them quiet. When emotion replaces reason, however, 'Fascist' becomes just a swear-word to use against the police on demonstrations, and its much more sinister reality—to make the workers feel that there is something in it for them as well and to identify with the State—becomes obscured and even denied, if it doesn't fit the argument.

Now I know that I have laid myself open to the whiplash of the Notting Hill Group's fierce logic, and that what I have just said constitutes a defence of the Franco regime, of the garrotting of *their* comrades and of the exploitation of the entire Spanish working class, to say nothing of setting up *another* record: one more of the Freedom Press group is an undercover Fascist. But there, I must get in on the act somehow, and since I believe that the truth is a better weapon than hysteria and hate, I must be prepared to suffer for it.

I must admit to another heresy as well. I don't think we have to support every call for support that comes from Spain just because it comes from Spain. Especially when by implication we are asked to support, condone and justify the irresponsible antics with bombs in passport offices that are the contributions of the CIL to the boycott campaign. Far be it from me to give advice to my betters in polemic, but if the apologia for the bomb incidents used by the Notting Hill Group are the best they can do, they would have done better to have kept their mouths shut altogether.

Personally, though, I was delighted to see their long diatribe. The stark contrast between the editor's original contribution on the subject and this group's hysterical outburst, wherein even their half-truths are vitiated by spleen and dishonest argument, cannot be lost, I am sure, on any of our readers. It is almost a case of indecent exposure; so much so that many of our comrades have been profoundly disturbed by it. But I think it is well to know what we are up against, and I am grateful to all the signatories for making themselves known. Grateful, too, for their promise to give up trying to convert the editors of FREEDOM to anarchism. May I ask them to go one step further, and please, please, give up trying to convert *anybody* to anarchism? Just for the sake of the anarchist movement, I mean.

*London, N.W.*1. PHILIP SANSOM.

CENTRAL LONDON

"Lamb and Flag", Rose Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2. (nr. Garrick and King Streets: Leicester Square tube), 7.45 p.m.

SEP 29 Jack Robinson.
Nechyaev

OCT 6 To be announced

OCT 27 Dorothy Day
(of the "Catholic Worker", N.Y.)

ALL WELCOME

HYDE PARK MEETINGS

Sundays at 3.30 p.m., Speakers' Corner. Weather and other circumstances permitting.

GLASGOW FEDERATION

Meets every Thursday, 7.30, at 4 Ross Street, Glasgow, E.2 (off Gallowgate).

BRISTOL FEDERATION

The Downs (nr. Blackboy Hill) every Sunday, 3.30, circumstances and weather permitting.

PROPOSED GROUPS

Proposals have been made for forming anarchist/discussion groups or federations in the following areas. Will those interested please get into touch with the address given?

BELFAST
Telephone 23691.

BIRMINGHAM AND WEST MIDLANDS
Peter Neville,
12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

COUNTY OF STAFFORD TRAINING COLLEGE
John Wheeler, C.S.T.C., Nr. Stafford, Staffs.

HEREFORD
Peter & Maureen Ford, 9 Poole Close, Hereford

MANCHESTER
John McEwan, c/o Farrish, 4, Sanby Avenue, Mount Estate, Gorton, Manchester.

PLYMOUTH
Fred Spiers, 35 Ridge Park Avenue, Mutley, Plymouth.

ROMFORD & HORNCHURCH
John Chamberlain, 74 Upper Rainham Road, Hornchurch, Essex, *or*
Chris Rose, 34 Newbury Gardens, Upminster.

READING
Enquiries about meetings being held to James Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading.

SHEFFIELD
Peter Lee, 745 Eccleshall Road, Sheffield.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
J. D. Gilbert-Rolfe, 4 Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Sussex.

OFF-CENTRE DISCUSSION MEETINGS

First Tuesday in each month at 8 p.m. at Jean and Tony Smythe's Ground Floor Flat, 88, Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.

1st Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at Colin Ward's, 33 Ellerby Street, Fulham, S.W.6.

2nd Friday at Brian and Doris Leslie's, 242 Amesbury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).
N.B.—Change of Day.

Last Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at George Hayes', 174 Mcleod Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.

3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Rooum's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

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There was so much that was splendid in the Notting Hill Group's highly personal and prudent rejoinder that I should like to draw attention to almost every paragraph, but out of respect for those provincials who are not bloody interested, and in order to be brief, I must forgo that pleasure. I beg to be allowed space however to point out one

weapon than hysteria and hate, I must be prepared to suffer for it.

I must admit to another heresy as well. I don't think we have to support every call for support that comes from Spain just because it comes from Spain. Especially when by implication we are asked to support, condone and justify the irresponsible antics with bombs in passport offices that are the contributions of the CIL to the boycott campaign. Far be it from me to give advice to my betters in polemic, but if the apologia for the bomb incidents used by the Notting Hill Group are the best they can do, they would have done better to have kept their mouths shut altogether.

Personally, though, I was delighted to see their long diatribe. The stark contrast between the editor's original contribution on the subject and this group's hysterical outburst, wherein even their half-truths are vitiated by spleen and dishonest argument, cannot be lost, I am sure, on any of our readers. It is almost a case of indecent exposure; so much so that many of our comrades have been profoundly disturbed by it. But I think it is well to know what we are up against, and I am grateful to all the signatories for making themselves known. Grateful, too, for their promise to give up trying to convert the editors of FREEDOM to anarchism. May I ask them to go one step further, and please, please, give up trying to convert *anybody* to anarchism? Just for the sake of the anarchist movement, I mean.

London, N.W.1. PHILIP SANSOM.

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here and now, and somebody then spoke about the factories for peace project and it was decided that we should find out more about these.

As to my own ideas on what can be done now. In common with most anarchists. I feel a great sympathy for the misfits of our society but especially (in my own case) for the total rejection (rejected, amounts to the same thing), *i.e.* tramps, beats, etc., which is why I mentioned in one of my notes to you Phillipe O'Connors book *Vagrancy*. At the end of the book he suggests that there should be some sort of loose community where tramps, beats and others could live and where no pressures would be put on the person to get him back on the wheel. But where he could freely develop his individuality. A sort of community that caters for the individual's wants and not one that tries to fit everybody into the same mould. In fact an anarchist community. As O'Connor says, there is a great deal of sharing and giving amongst tramps and other misfits. Perhaps one day it'll be recognized and something done about it. If there is anybody who feels that we can do something along these lines I would like to hear from them.

Reading, Sept. 9. R. ADAIR.

For Mutual Aid

October 6th at Mahatma Gandhi Hall, 41, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. at 7 p.m. Play "Triangle in Red", by Giovanni Baldelli with Hovenden Theatre Club actors. Tickets 5/- in aid of families of Delgados and Granados.

Inevitable?

DEAR COMRADE,

I agree with everything that is written in the article 'African Governments' 7/9/63 but, having said that I wish to raise some important questions.

The majority of African leaders have 'caught it in the neck' at some time or other from imperialist forces, and in the majority of cases their punishment has been far from a picnic. Then comes the time when they gain *Power* and the same picture is repeated over again. Why?

We can as good anarchists sit in our armchairs surrounded by revolutionary literature and say, "We saw this position from the 'off' it was bound to happen 'power corrupts' and in any case the intellectuals were trained by European Social Democrats. What else can you expect?

Having made our position pure; where do we go from here?

Are these situations inevitable? Are we not in some small measure responsible, in that we have failed to take interest, or failed to offer assistance before it was too late? In the struggle to throw off imperialism many people have been murdered and tortured, can we say "you wasted your lives"? Personally I feel rather squeamish saying to a person who during the course of the struggle has been beaten half to death or done five years in an African Jail, "You are wrong mate, you are not going to build a free society that way".

What can be done? And I repeat "Are these situations inevitable?

London, E.17. BILL CHRISTOPHER.

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First Tuesday in each month at 8 p.m. at Jean and Tony Smythe's Ground Floor Flat, 88, Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.
1st Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. at Colin Ward's, 33 Ellerby Street, Fulham, S.W.6.
2nd Friday at Brian and Doris Leslie's, 242 Amesbury Avenue, S.W.2 (Streatham Hill, Nr. Station).
N.B.—Change of Day.
Last Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at George Hayes', 174 Mcleod Road, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.
3rd Friday of each month at 8 p.m. at Donald & Irene Rooum's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.
Notting Hill Anarchist Group (Discussion Group)
Last Friday of the month, at Brian and Margaret Hart's, 57 Ladbroke Road, (near Notting Hill Station), W.11.

Freedom

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